**Rural Service Web Meeting**

**Approach for Workshop:**

* Review and add to the lists of challenges associated with rural service delivery.
* Discuss some of the solutions that were offered prior to the meeting and add to them if possible.
* Share any locally developed resources and distribute/post them after the meeting.
* Spend some time discussing any processes and resources used to start the process of change.
* Discuss the focus of the next meeting, along with possible dates and times.

The points below have been gathered from correspondence with members that have expressed an interest in this meeting, from the previous meeting in April, and from NAWS correspondence. The lists are by no means exhaustive and hopefully will be added to during the course of the meeting.

**Service Delivery**

**Challenges**

Limited number of trusted servants:

* Trusted servant burnout
* Wide range of services all needing support
* Lack of experience in relation to applying principles of the Traditions

High demand for H&I service in rurally located jails where there are few or no NA groups

Geographical (distance and terrain) and climate challenges equal low participation at service meetings and commitments

Rural groups feel underserved by urban-based service bodies that they are a member of

Strong personalities becoming dominant in small communities:

* Poor atmosphere of recovery
* No new ideas

More experience can be found in local AA communities:

* They tend to be more available to do service and may overshadow NA in institutions
* NA members switching to AA attendance and service

PR in rural areas:

* Personal anonymity in small communities making it difficult for some addicts to serve in certain capacities
* Many local members also work in local treatment facilities or institutions, making it difficult to maintain a separation between NA and the institution.

Lack of internet service in rural areas making IT based solutions ineffective in some cases

**Solutions**

Online technology to facilitate communication and virtual attendance. Examples include Facebook, Twitter, Skype, GoToMeeting, conference calls, and Adobe Connect.

Continue to mail hard copies of minutes for members without internet access.

Special one-time H&I events if resources don’t allow for a regular panel, such as phone connections to enable inmates to hear shares at unity days or convention meetings.

Regularly send literature and meeting lists to local jails if resources for a panel aren’t available.

Utilize ideas related to the SSP such as the GSF and LSC/LSB.

Shared services.

Rotate location of service meetings.

Centrally located service meetings.

Food and/or recovery activity at service meetings.

Open participation at service meetings.

Short term service commitments.

PSAs on local media.

We have made our home group meeting space available to regional subcommittee and event meetings as we are centrally located between the 2 metropolitan areas. This provides us with a few extra dollars each month (the committee's normally make a small contribution). This also gets members from out of town coming to our meetings and exposes our local members to other levels or kinds of service that they may not otherwise see. Since we are not able to contribute financially to our ASC consistently we volunteer to host the ASC meeting when it rotates a few times a year. The normal ASC rent allocation that we receive, we are able to return back to the area as part of the way we can participate in being self-supporting.